Kusch, Krieger Continue Points Duel

by Lyn Pherigo

Saugus, CA, April 1... James Kusch came into the third night of hobby stock racing with just a one point lead over Larry Krieger in the point standing, and they remained close as each scored main event triumphs in the nights racing. Rick Crow also scored his first main event win.

The field of cars was split into two 15 lap oval main events with the faster cars in the second main. In that race, Krieger sat on the pole and immediately jumped out into the early lead with Tom Siebuhr moving into second. Krieger moved out establishing a lead and would never be challenged for the win. The win was Krieger's third win of the still young year. On the 12th circuit, Lawrence Leis made a late pass of Siebuhr to move into second with Steve Tollefson also passing Siebuhr. Tollefson challenged Leis to the finish, but Leis held on to take runnerup honors.

The first oval main featured the jalopy and foreign stock division cars as well as the slower hobby stock cars. Crow started sixth and wasted no time in taking the lead on the third circuit. From there, Crow pulled away establishing a lead he would never give up. Kusch finished second ahead of top foreign stock driver Steve Katz in third.

In the figure 8 main, the points duel between Kusch and Krieger became a duel for the win in the race. Kusch jumped from his sixth starting spot to take the lead on the first 12 laps. Krieger moved in behind him by lap three and the duo stayed locked together in a tight duel for the win. At the checkered, Kusch held on for a narrow victory over Krieger.

In preliminary action, Joe Barreras Jr. posted fast time tying Dave Blankenship's record of 19.65 seconds. Trophy dash wins were posted by Kelley in the oval and Siebuhr in the figure 8. Kelley also won the figure 8 heat race.

SUMMARY

Hobby Stocks

Fast Time-Joe Barreras Jr., 19.65.

Dash-Brian Kelley, Barreras, Steve Tollefson.

First Main-Rick Crow, Jim Kusch, Steve Katz, Ray Duff, Jean-Pierre Dumur, Scott Wade, Dan Unger, Charles Hochhalter, Sally Gasparovich, Sue Frandsen, #43C, Thad Friday, Tony Polisano, Greg VanGrinsven.

Second Main-Larry Krieger, Lawrence Leis, Tollefson, Tom Siebuhr, Sue Pittinato, Kelley, Gary Redel, Jim Gunnarson, Terry Harmes, Shanon Flavin, Barreras, Jeff Drummen.

Figure 8

Dash-Tom Siebuhr, Jim Gunnarson, Brian Kelley.

Main-Jim Kusch, Larry Krieger, Kelley, Siebuhr, Rich Crow, Dan Unger, Charles Hochhalter, Gary Redel, Thad Friday, Gunnarson.